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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET, [REDACTED]

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia
SUBJECT Explosives Factory, Velvety

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

25X1

DATE DISTR.

8 January 1954

25X1

NO. OF PAGES

5

DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]

REQUIREMENT NO. [REDACTED]

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PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

REFERENCES

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1. The military factory producing explosives is located to the northwest of Velvety in a bend of the Lovosice - Usti nad Labem railroad line¹. In the center of this curve, another railroad line branches off toward Teplice.
2. In the north, the factory grounds reach to the main Teplice-Usti nad Labem road. A railroad track runs parallel with this road. The Lovosice-Teplice road runs along the west and southwest of the factory. In the northwest there is the Bylina Brook and the railroad line to Lovosice. At the point where the tracks from Teplice join the Lovosice-Usti nad Labem line¹, a small stream flows into the Bylina Brook.
3. The factory covers an area of 700 by 2,000 meters, enclosed by a wire fence. The main production halls are underground. On the surface, there are only halls in which explosives are handled. The tops of the underground halls are covered with grass and cannot be seen from the air. The main entrance to the factory is near the junction of the road and railroad.
4. A guardroom is near the entrance gate, and not far from it is a two-story brick building 15 by 20 meters in size, which is used as billets. Alongside this building run tracks with many branches. Below the billets is the fuel storage area.
5. The administration offices are in a brick building near the gate. Opposite the main guardroom there is another guardroom in a small brick building. Offices and the telephone exchange are in one building approximately 10 by 30 meters in size in the northeast corner of the factory grounds. Here are also the kitchen and the main barracks in a three-story building approximately 30 by 60 meters in size.

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

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- 2 -

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6. On the other side of the railroad track there are more buildings, containing living quarters for the technical staff of the factory. On this side, the administration offices and living quarters are separated from the workshops by a wire fence.
7. On the east side of the tracks are six brick buildings 15 by 60 meters in size. The one closest to the tracks is a production hall (No. 23 on the annexed sketch). Lower down is another building with the boiler house, and near it are the baths and washrooms. A little farther south are the garages and electrical workshops. The chemical laboratories are in a building located farther to the east.
8. On the western side of the tracks, in the vicinity of the first production hall, there is a one-story building 20 meters square through which one can enter the underground halls (No. 22 on the sketch). Near it there are two one-story halls 15 by 60 meters in size. Near the end of the track are several small production halls resembling bunkers. The doors and front walls of these are of concrete; the rest is covered with earth. These buildings are used for storing TNT.
9. In the southwestern part of the factory there are two empty one-story barracks buildings. Some 500 meters from them is another plant about 300 by 500 meters in size, separated from the main factory by a wire fence. Inside it, only some bunkers and a guardroom could be seen. This plant has two entrances.
10. In the northwestern part of the Velvety factory grounds there are three water pools which were excavated at about the time of the observation and were laid out with concrete.
11. The Velvety factory produces TNT and fills anti-tank mines and aircraft bombs. In 1951, four stations were demolished by an explosion, but as this occurred after working hours there were no casualties.
12. Anti-tank mines are packed by twos in wooden boxes 35 or 40 ccm. in size. Mines and bombs are filled with TNT. Large quantities of old German bombs were brought to the factory, where they are cleaned, sprayed with an acetone varnish and then filled. The testing range is probably in the vicinity of the factory because explosions are heard every day.
13. Raw materials and finished products are brought to the plant by rail or by truck. The average daily shipment is from five to seven railroad cars.
14. The technical personnel in charge of production consists of some 40 or 50 Army officers, who are explosives experts. They also supervise production, where chiefly women are employed. The total number of women employees is 300. They are all reliable Communists who have undergone several screening and security checks. They are very careful not to disclose anything about the plant. Soldiers who became friendly with girls employed in the underground halls were unable to learn details about their work. The women's salaries average 9,000 Kcs. per month.
15. It has been observed that after about two months the hair of these women turns deep red and their skin looks transparent. Since handling TNT causes leukemia, the women are relieved every four months and transferred to other jobs in the same factory. They are issued reddish cards with photographs and stamped by military headquarters at Velvety.
16. The factory works one shift per day. Since the majority of the women commute from Teplice, a small railroad station has been established near the junction.
17. There is one kitchen in the factory which caters both to military and civilian employees. The meals are very good.
18. Electric current is supplied to the Velvety explosives factory by the power plant at Ervenice.

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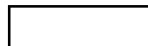
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- 3 -



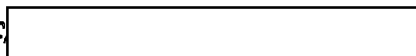
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19. Guard duties are performed by two Army companies totalling 200 men. They patrol the factory and are also constantly on duty in the guardroom. At night they patrol all the buildings but have no access to the underground halls, which are locked overnight.

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1.  Comment. The Lovosice-Usti nad Labem line here referred to lies considerably west of the line between those two cities which runs along the west bank of the Elbe River and which constitutes a much more direct route.

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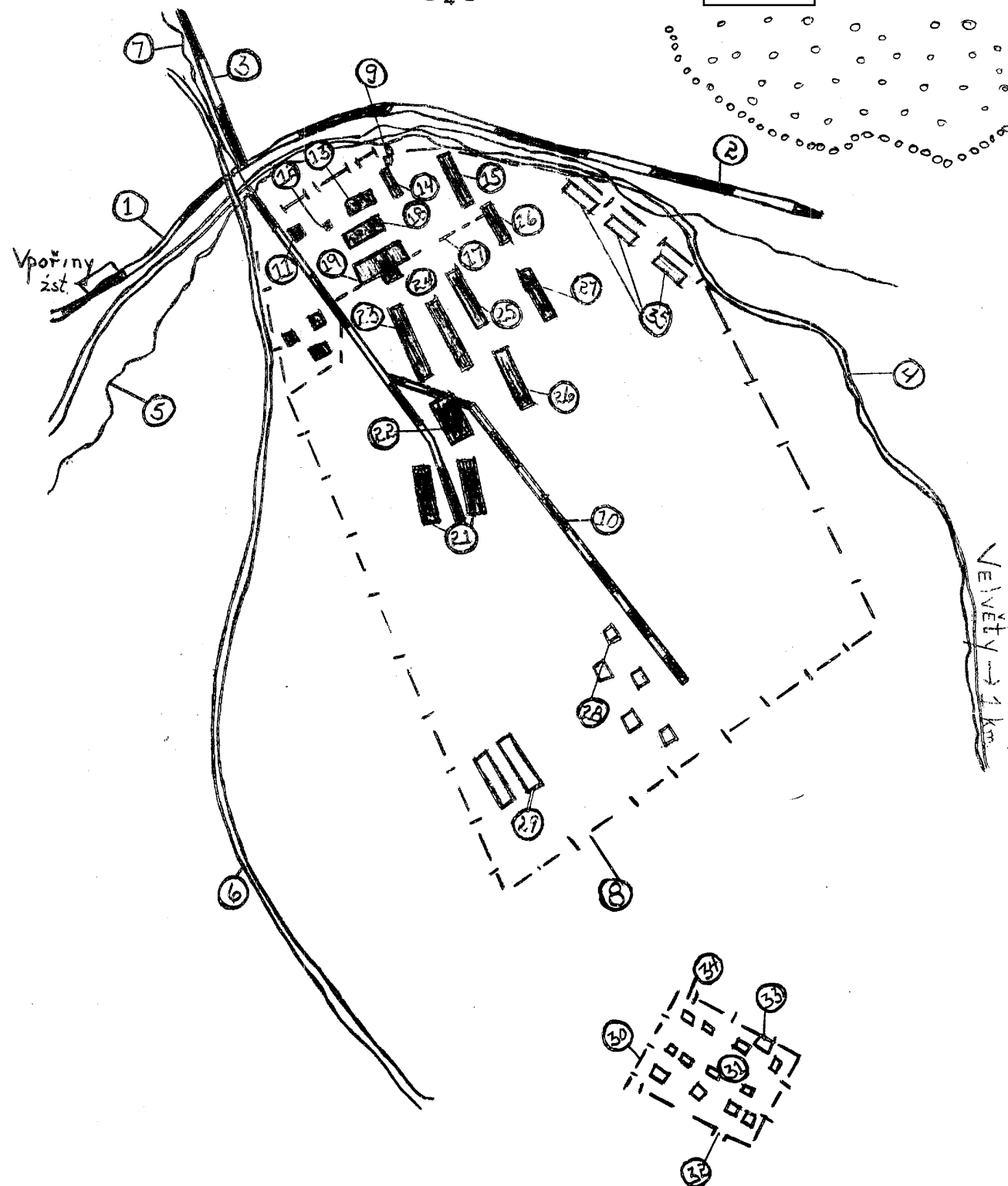
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- 4 -

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Explosives Factory
at Velvety

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- 5 -

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Legend to the sketch of the Explosives Factory at Velvety.

1. Railroad line; Teplice - Usti nad Labem - Lovosice.
2. Railroad line; Lovosice - Teplice - Usti nad Labem.
3. Railroad line; to Teplice.
4. Road to Usti nad Labem.
5. Bylina Brook.
6. Road to Lovosice - Teplice.
7. Brook.
8. Wire fence.
9. Gate and guardroom.
10. Railroad track.
11. Living quarters.
12. Fuel storage.
13. Headquarters and administrative offices.
14. Guardroom.
15. Telephone exchange.
16. Washroom.
17. Wire fence.
18. Kitchen.
19. Billets; three stories.
20. Billets.
21. Production hall.
22. Entrance to underground production halls.
23. Production hall.
24. Boiler house.
25. Baths.
26. Garages and electric workshops.
27. Chemical laboratories.
28. TNT storage.
29. Empty barracks.
30. Wire fence.
31. Bunkers.
32. Entrance.
33. Guardroom.
34. Entrance.
35. Water pools.

Note: No. 20 does not appear on the sketch.

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